

THESE SHIRT-WAIST SUITS of SILK ARE COOL and DRESSY for WARM AFTERNOONS at the FAIR

They Are of Every Weave Fashionable at the Moment, Taffetas, Pongee, Shantung and Satin Messaline.



Elaborately shirred is this Empire model, in a cool-looking green Shantung, cleverly relieved with lace and dark-green velvet ribbon. The long shoulder effect is defined with Cluny lace, the full blouse shirred over little featherbone cords in girde effect, and the very full sleeve is banded into a cuff finished with lace ruffle.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.
Truly these are the days that will go down in history—materially speaking, of course—as the days of the reign of the shirt-waist suit!

At the beginning of its triumphant career it was sternly limited to inexpensive materials, those suited to the washstand and its appearance were limited to the morning hours only, and that chiefly in the country, where folks are not supposed to be so observant or so critical of clothes and of styles.

But simply has this fascinating little style reversed itself.

It has taken the center of the sartorial stage, and in its newest appearance it holds that position successfully against all comers.

The best of our fancy tailors do not disdain to expend some of their cleverest thoughts and most stylish efforts upon this same shirt-waist suit.

Dressmakers who, at the beginning, fought against it with all their might and with all the energy that characterizes a lost cause (chiefly, we suspect, because the shirt-waist and shirt-waist suit makes no allowance for a big bill for "trimmings") realized the hopelessness of the fight and deeming discretion the better part of valor, they have become enthusiastic in praise of the once despised shirt-waist suit!

And only a glimpse, a single sight, at what the exclusive shops are showing in these dainty and eminently practical costumes is enough to convince the most skeptical that they are the style par excellence for the coming summer's wear.

Silk, of course, leads the procession. Now, to the uninitiated this may seem just about the limit of extravagance, but the character of the present-day silks must be taken into consideration, and their price likewise.

The taffetas are in all their various finishes—chiffon, mousseline, chameleon, messaline, and a host of others; but the soft satin messaline, the foulard, the India and Japanese silks are by no means absent from the procession.

The pongees, too, are to be seen this season in all of their natural tints, which vary from the faintest champagne coloring down to a rich, deep fawn. And the shantungs, in both the natural and the dyed colorings, lend themselves delightfully to the current modes.

New canvas weaves, too, are seen in these products of the East, and, in fact, there is no fabric that comes from the cocoon that will not be looked upon with favor by the smart and clever dresser this summer.

While taffetas have been in favor for some time, the extremely variable wearing qualities which characterized this weave gave it a very unenviable reputation in some quarters.

Even high-priced pieces cut and sewn with very little wear, and, indeed, for some time even the best houses would not guarantee their taffetas.

For this season, though, the Summer Girl need not hesitate to order taffetas, for there are even some on the market which offer money back if they do not wear.

Every feature of the current fashions is incorporated in the smart shirt-waist suit, which the dainty girl makes her first consideration when planning her summer wardrobe.

Of her slender waist—all of these appear to excellent advantage above the full and fluffy skirts which accompany these old-time—so old that they are new, indeed, to the present day and generation—manifestations of the fickle dame who rules the fashions.

In the craze for the extremely fine and sheer lingerie waist, which has taken possession of all the girls who follow the fashions, the fancy this year in the shirt-waist costumes is for a blouse that can be worn either as a waist or a coat.

This is preferably fashioned with some sort of yoke—round, square, castellated, pointed, indented. Every possible and conceivable change is rung upon the yoke question to produce some noticeable variation of the style.

The smooth fit over the shoulder accomplished—and incidentally the shoulder seam does not come into the calculations at all; it has vanished and become a thing of the past—the very bouffant blouse is shirred to this, and the new sleeve is shirred likewise.

And speaking of sleeves, it is to be noted that the full and unwieldy wrist puff is eliminated. The whole length of the sleeve is one great puff in some instances, while in others the cuff is anywhere from three to thirteen inches in length.

But the point is that the fullness has mounted and is still mounting upward, and the cuffs themselves are made the medium of much decoration, and show very fanciful shapes as well. The plain, undecorated band or strap cuff is an anomaly in this season's styles.

Then the very deep girde which is such a prominent feature in the new shirt-waist suits of silk!

The silks themselves are so sheer and supple that they really invite all the elaboration that is lavished on them.

In the heavier weaves the girde is cleverly fitted in the plain band, perhaps strapped with a little gilt cord and buttons, but in the lighter weaves it is shirred and plaited and crushed around midriff's waist in the most fascinating way.

And on the little girde frames, boned and feathered, that are on sale in all the shops, the lacing in front enables the smart girl to emphasize the slenderness of her waist beneath the fluffy puffs of her blouse.

The skirts, which are a part, and an important part, too, of the new shirt-waist costume, are, in the new mode, cut to clear the ground all around.

In rare instances they barely touch; but the up-to-date girl has hers cut at least an inch and sometimes two inches off the ground, thus displaying her shiny shoes to advantage.

The shoe itself has become an important item in the costume; and the difficulty which the smart girl experienced last season in matching her pongees in the tan shoe has led Dame Fashion to declare—and in no unmistakable terms, either—that the shiny black shoe would be the thing this season.

There is the patent coliseum, which is especially smart; and the new court shoe, the dress pump and the old stand-by, the Oxford, are all seen in this smart leathern.

Where the blouse is much shirred the skirt follows suit and is shirred, too, at the hips.

Sometimes all this shirring is done by hand, but the oscillating stitch of the modern sewing machine places such hand work at a discount.

The deep girde, fashioned upon a featherboned foundation, defines the figure cleverly in this charming Empire suit of the naturalist pongee. The full blouse has a yoke defined with fancy braid, and scarlet velvet makes a smart touch of color on the collar and cuff. The skirt has plaits stitched down over the hips.

box plaits pressed the entire length down to the hem.

This is a model which will recommend itself to almost every class of figure, for the shirring will commend itself to the slender, while the more fully developed figure will vote for the box plaits as affording some stimulation of the much-to-be-desired sveite slenderness.

All of the taffetas are so sheer and supple that the Parisians—those ingenious cousins of ours, the Yankees of Europe, as they are sometimes called—have introduced a clever wrinkle to afford a weight and stability around the hem.

This consists in a broad bias band of velvet, which follows the curve of the skirt and insures the correct shape at the foot.

Sometimes the hem is covered with little tufts, or narrow nun's folds; but in the majority of cases the plain hem is preferred.

And the pretty hats which the clever milliners are showing for wear with these suits are of a simple pattern, but oh! so fetching and so eminently becoming.

The bebs and the lingerie hat—in which almost any girl can look years and years younger; the smart sailor, with its brim curved more upward than before and the crown considerably wider from side to side; the neat, close-fitting turban, and the styles of hats which are known distinctively as the tailored and the shirt-waist hat—one and all of these are more than possible for wear with the shirt-waist costume.

And, indeed, some of the silk shirt-



ROSE TOWN
Of No. 121 Webster avenue. Little Miss Town's favorite pastime is to play the violin. She uses a great two-line instrument.

Champagne Shantung is used for this coat, which is made up unlined. Over the shoulders a fancy cape is disposed, and a touch of cardinal taffetas appears in the castellated collar and cuff.

waist costume designs are so elaborate that they may be worn without compunction to afternoon functions, and the accompanying hat is an ostrich plume trimmed hat and a fluffy parasol.

Apropos of parasols, many of the clever

Shantung summer to suit the suit, in which the blouse and hat are very long shoulder effect, the full skirt sleeve set in low on the arm.

girls order parasols to match the suit, buying sufficient material for both. One of cool-looking pale green Shantung has a border of dark green velvet ribbon with a lengthwise stripe in silk showing pale blue, scarlet and gold, these colors

grouped together to form a single stripe at far intervals.

The pongees are great favorites for parasols, and the taffetas are not a whit behind. Where the suit is of plain taffetas the parasol is often of the shirt or chameleon silk and vice versa.

SPECIAL TRAINING OF THE TYPEWRITER GIRL

Unique Schools and Employment Offices Where Thousands of Young Women Become Stenographers.

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.
If a man wants a stenographer nowadays, he does not spend half the time worrying over it that his wife does when she needs a cook. He lets someone else do the worrying.

He selects the receiver and rings up "central" in a peremptory manner, and in less than no time he is in communication with those whose business it is to help him out of his difficulty, and if you were somewhere near you would probably hear something like this:

"We want a stenographer quickly—a bright, competent girl, neat appearance and all that sort of thing, capable of doing good work and lots of it, and she must have a general knowledge of book-keeping."

"What's that you say? Salary? Oh, yes, what salary. Well, we'll say \$25 or \$35 to begin—and send her right away, won't you?"

"An experienced, thoroughly competent girl, well dressed, nice-looking, you know. You think you have someone who will suit? All right. Thanks. Good-by."

This is how it goes, though, and it is well worth the trouble of a morning to fall in line with the girls and drop in at the employment bureau of a large and well-known typewriter concern.

LABORERS IN THE COUNTRY.
This particular bureau with which we have to do, and which is the largest of its kind in the country, is managed on a purely mutual plan, and incidentally covers a wide field of usefulness and does more actual good in aiding those who need to be helped than many avowed philanthropic institutions.

The typewriter and the typewriter girl are part and parcel of each other, and they are never dissipated in one's mind. They form a combination, and an important one, all by themselves—a sort of merged trust. Women either won't or can't hang together; if they would or could, there would be a stenographers' union that would make the bricklayers and all those little combinations look like twenty and ten cents.

Now, it seems too bad to give it away, but here will be told why there is no typewriters' union.

Almost every stenographer and typewriter starts in (unless she takes it up as a last resort) not seriously as her life work, but as a sort of antismoke to

WAR HAS REVIVED KIMONOS

WRITTEN FOR THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC.
Interest in the war between Japan and Russia has caused a stir in kimono, and materials for making these comfortable negligee garments.

The real kimono is a square-cut, somewhat complicated garment, with clearly defined sleeves and an obi, but the kimono-wrappers most favored by the American woman flares around the foot and hangs loose and unconfined from the shoulder to the hem.

For making the latter style of kimono, there comes a bewildering variety of

dashing Japanese patterns in light-weight wool and delicate cotton fabrics. The patterns show either chrysanthemums, cherry blossoms or dragons in pale colors on a darker ground.

The favorite grounds are crimson, royal blue, purple and yellow, and the garment is simply finished with a broad band of silk around the neck and sleeves and down the two front panels. This band matches exactly the groundwork or background of the pattern.

If wool fabric is used, the lining is the thinnest, China silk. No lining is required for the cotton kimono.

have many male applicants, of course, but many more female. We have so many female applicants that we have to subdivide them into experienced and inexperienced ranks, while, you see, the men have a section to themselves. Oh, no; the species is not extinct by any means. Some firms prefer men for some reasons or other.

"We require every applicant to stand a rigid examination, and such is classified according to merit. What we call an experienced stenographer is one who can write from 100 to 125 words per minute and read it after it is written and be able to transcribe it accurately and properly spelled into good English. It is not always the most rapid stenographer or the one who makes the biggest notes with the machine who is the most competent. Rapidity and competency do not always go together by any means—in fact, they rarely do. Fifty to seventy-five words per minute on the typewriter is excellent speed, and it is hard to keep up this speed, though there are those who write faster."

NEWEST MODE IN PILLOW CUSHIONS.
Foundation is Velvet, Appliqued With Flag or Coat of Arms in Burnt Leather.

The summer girl who wants to please her college friends and have pretty fancy work for the porch hour may fashion what promises to be the smartest thing in sofa cushions for next fall.

The foundation is velvet, heavy silk or broadcloth, appliqued with the college flag or arms or secret society insignia, in burnt leather.

There seems no limit to the colors employed in leather work, and the menagerie or design may be ordered at any fancy shop dealing in leather goods, and then applied by the fair giver.

The design occupies the center of the cushion and a border of leather may be applied without ornament.